

REMARKS

The Office Action dated August 22, 2007, set forth a restriction requirement between claims of Group I (namely, Claims 12-15, 29-36, 39-46, and 47-52) and claims of Group II (namely, Claims 53-72).

Applicant elects the claims of Group I without traverse as to Claims 65-72 in Group II. The election of Group I, however, is made with limited traverse as to Claims 53-64 in Group II.

The restriction was made on the basis of combination and subcombination. It is not apparent what constitutes the combination and subcombination as set forth in the Office Action. Claim 12 recites a method that includes certain actions that are performed by computer. Claim 53 recites a computer-accessible medium having executable instructions stored thereon, wherein the instructions, when executed, cause a computer to perform the claimed method. Under the guidance of MPEP § 806.05(c), restriction in the present case does not seem proper. Accordingly, applicant requests reconsideration of the restriction as between the claims of Group I and Claims 53-64 of Group II.

Claims 12, 15, 29, and 35 have been amended, and for the present time, Claims 53-72 are shown as withdrawn, though applicant requests examination of Claims 53-64 with the claims of Group I.

Support for the claim amendments is found in the specification as filed. For example, in some aspects, the Examiner may refer to the use cases provided in the application, such as the "inquiry form of negotiation" at page 118, line 11, to page 120, line 31, as well as the "direct negotiation" discussed at page 121, line 1, to page 122, line 20.

CONCLUSION

Examination of Claims 12-15, 29-36, 39-46, and 47-64 is requested. Should there be any questions or issues that can be resolved by telephone, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned counsel at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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